ABSTRACT

In one representative embodiment the present invention provides for a method of
generating an authentication key that can be used to authenticate an electronic
document file representative of a document. The method includes providing the
electronic document file as an initial digital file, and applying a predetermined halftoning
process to the digital file to generate a digital halftone file of a plurality of discrete digital
values. A predetermined mathematical process is then performed on the plurality of
discrete digital values to thereby generate the authentication key.